

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS ON THE BARRY M. GOLDWATER AIR FORCE RANGE
PHOENIX FIELD OFFICE
May 2001 through July 2001

This log is a combination of major work items over several months. Activities being reported upon are very similar to those of the more recent, previous reports because BLM activities on the Range are declining due to the transfer of responsibility for the lands to the two military branches, under Public Law 106-65.

Project Name: **Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP/EIS).**
Location: All of Barry M. Goldwater Range, as withdrawn by P.L. 106-65.
Status: Ongoing.
Description: P. L. 106-65 requires the preparation of a new land use plan for the Goldwater Range. The plan, called the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan, is being prepared under the authority of the Sikes Act and P. L. 106-65. An environmental impact statement is also being prepared addressing implementation of the new plan. Principal involved agencies are U.S. Air Force, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department, and the Bureau of Land Management. A core team of agency staff is assisting in plan/EIS preparation by the contractors, URS Corporation (formerly Dames and Moore). The draft plan, originally anticipated in Spring, 2001, has been delayed because of a judgment in a lawsuit affecting the Goldwater Range. A draft is likely before the end of 2001. To be placed on the Newsletter mailing list, write to: Barry M. Goldwater Range, Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, P.O. Box 67132, Phoenix, Arizona 85082-7132.

Project Name: **U.S. Marine Corp Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.**
Location: Western half of BMGR.
Status: Draft.
Description: The judgement in the lawsuit, Defenders of Wildlife, et.al., v. Norton and others, caused the U.S. Marine Corps to prepare a supplemental EIS addressing cumulative impacts on the Sonoran pronghorn. BLM was a cooperator in the original EIS, and is participating on the agency team on the supplemental document. A draft is expected for public review in late summer.

Project Name: **Study of Non-renewed Parcels.**
Location: Area A, Sentinel Plain, Ajo Airport block, I-8 vicinity parcels.
Status: Study completed and provided to Congress.
Description: Section 3031(a)(7) of the Military Lands Withdrawal Act of 1999 (P.L. 106-65) required BLM to conduct a study to determine the appropriate method to manage and protect the non-renewed lands following relinquishment, and to consider whether the lands could be better

managed by the Federal Government or through conveyance of the lands to another appropriate entity. The study report was provided to Congress in December, 2000. The full document is available on the Internet at the website below. Note: this is a LARGE file with color maps and photos; it will take a long time to download.

http://www.az.blm.gov/pfo/goldwater_report/gw_report.pdf

Project Name: **Relinquishment of Non-renewed Parcels.**
Location: Area A, Sentinel Plain, Ajo Airport block, I-8 vicinity parcels.
Status: Air Force Environmental Baseline study is underway, with report at draft stage.
Description: As part of the withdrawal relinquishment process, the Air Force must complete an Environmental Baseline Study of the subject lands. That process is well underway at this writing. The Air Force will also provide BLM with a "Notice of Intent to Relinquish" the subject lands.

Action: **Sonoran Desert National Monument**
Location: Area A and adjoining BLM administered public lands.
Status: Designated by President Clinton January 17, 2001.
Description: Area A and adjoining public lands were designated a national monument, to be administered by BLM. Total federal lands in the monument are approximately 486,603 acres. Area A remains part of the BMGR, but is also part of the monument. The P.L. 99-606 withdrawal on Area A expires in November, 2001. BLM will have sole jurisdiction for Area A after that date, though it will continue to cooperate with the Air Force and other BEC agencies to assure public safety and security for the Range. The Goldwater Range Access permits will continue to be required on Area A after November, 2001.

Project Name: **Law Enforcement for Barry M. Goldwater Range**
Location: East half of Barry M. Goldwater Range
Status: Ongoing. Law enforcement patrol is ongoing and is reported quarterly.
Description: During the most recent reporting period (February 2001 through April 2001), 125.5 hours of patrol time were logged, with 205 public contacts made and one citation issued. Contact with undocumented aliens declined through much of the reporting period, probably due to the holiday period. Undocumented alien traffic continues to be the major problem area. Coordination with and assistance to and from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Cabeza Prieta NWR), Border Patrol and other law enforcement agencies in the area continues. The Air Force provides the principal funding for this position.

Project Name:	Access Permit.
Location:	All of the Barry M. Goldwater Range (and the adjoining Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge).
Status:	Ongoing. Entry onto the Goldwater Range requires the possession of an access permit. Each person in the party 18 years old or old must have a permit. Applications, rules and regulations and other information regarding the access permit, and the permits themselves, may be obtained from the U.S. Air Force at Gila Bend (520) 683-6200, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Range Management Department (928) 269-3402, BLM Yuma Field Office (928) 317-3200, BLM Phoenix Field Office (623) 580-5500 and Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge (520) 387-6483.
Description:	Permits are valid July 1 through June 30. Permit holders must call 1-877-226-7010 prior to <u>each</u> trip to the Range and/or Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge. Information to be provided by the permit holder during the call include the permit numbers of all members of the party, the areas you plan to visit, the date and duration of the visit and the make/model of all vehicles to be used. Access permits <u>will</u> continue to be required for entry into Area A even after the current military withdrawal expires in November, 2001.
Meeting:	Barry M. Goldwater Range Partners Working Group Meeting
Location:	Various - in southern Arizona.
Status:	Ongoing, every four months, in locations associated with management of the Range. The next meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on September 13, 2001, at the BLM Field Office in Yuma.
Description:	Representatives of the various federal and state agencies that manage lands or resources on the Range participate in Partners meetings which are attended by any publics concerned about or interested in the Range. The purpose of the meeting is to promote interaction and understanding among the agencies and the public, to inform the public of agency activities and acquire input from the public on Range management and on planning and other documents. Notes from past meetings are posted on the Internet at http://phoenix.az.blm.gov/bmgr.html .
Meeting:	Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Team
Location:	Ajo and Luke Air Force Base
Status:	Ongoing. Members of the Phoenix Field Office and of the Yuma Field Office staffs sit on the Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Team.
Description:	Continuing discussions on Sonoran Pronghorn recovery activity. The team is preparing an abbreviated revision addressing specific items only, in response to the Defenders of Wildlife, et.al., v. Norton and others lawsuit.

For further information, contact Gene Dahlem at BLM's Phoenix Field Office, 21605 North 7th

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